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membership, at present regrettably small, is increasing, and it is to be hoped that when the books are housed in the new library building which is to be situated in the centre of Crater, its greater accessibility will encourage more Arabs to join. 368

There is no tradition of pictorial art in South-West Arabia and practically no native handicrafts, therefore it is unusually difficult for the local Arab to produce anything original or characteristic, and his attempts at self-expression are all influenced by foreign art and have none of the freshness of primitive or aboriginal painting. He is indeed a late-comer to all the finer arts and consequently lacks taste and spontaneity. Nevertheless, the urge for self-expression is there, and the Aden Arts Club came into being specifically with the idea of encouraging people of all races interested in painting to meet together. In this it has been only partially successful as once again the European element tends to submerge the Arab. 532 575 543

In the last three years the Arts Club has sponsored three exhibitions of painting (two of which included handicrafts) and these exhibitions have certainly caused a quickening of interest even if they have produced no more tangible result. Though the show of talent is unimpressive, it is too early to demand standards and the aim is to arouse interest and stimulate endeavour. The same purpose is being pursued amongst the women, and here the standard of handicrafts, as produced by the Aden Protectorate Levies Wives' Club, has shown marked improvement—possibly because they are quick to grasp that good work can command a good market. Such incentive is excellent, and it is a pity that it is inapplicable to the less functional arts.